ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD, APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM FOR SEPARATE REPRESENTATIONS OF FILE SYSTEM LOCATIONS FROM REFERRING FILE SYSTEMS

5   A first file system includes a data object that references a second file system. The data object can be a new or existing file type with data identifying the second file system or some of its properties. The data required to locate the second file system is stored in a

10   file system location data structure that may be located outside the first file system. The data object may then contain a key value, such as a name or a number, identifying the second file system, that can be used to look up the file system location. A referencing server

15   may encode the file system identification and include the encoded file system identification rather than a path. When a server receives a request with a path that is encoded, the server decodes the file system identification. Then, the server may locate the root of

20   the file system identified by the file system identification and return the root object to the client. Location of the root can be done either by accessing the file system location data structure or by using another data structure. A root referral object is the top level

25   object in all participating file servers. It contains a referral to a root file system identification, which is the root file system. Since all participating file

systems contain the same root file system identification,
all clients will view the same name space regardless of
which file server is initially contacted.